REMARKS

The Office Action of August 2, 2004 has been reviewed and the Examiner's rejections and objections have been carefully considered. The present Amendment amends claim 35 (formerly claim 37) in accordance with the originally-filed specification. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, on page 8, line 10 - page 9, line 2 of the originally-filed application. Accordingly, no new matter has been added. Claims 19-35 are pending in this application.

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that all of claims 19-34 (formerly 21-36) are allowed. In particular, the Examiner believes that all of claims 19-34, and the subject matter therein, define over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance.

Initially, the Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). In particular, the Examiner indicates that the drawings do not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, and that Fig. 1 and Fig. 8, as originally filed, and as described in the specification, do not include any new structure according to the present invention. Specifically, the Examiner believes that Fig. 1 appears to only illustrate well-known electron scattering from a coating, and Fig. 8 only appears to show well-known neural network interconnections.

Fig. 1, Fig. 8 and the specification have all been amended to appropriately address the Examiner's objections to the drawings. In particular, with respect to the specification, a reference to the electronic circuit means 5 has been added. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, on page 5, lines 22-27 and claim 35 in the application as originally filed. Therefore, and again, no new matter has been added. In short, it is this electronic circuit means 5 that serves to implement the method for determining a precompensated pattern of exposure doses of an electron beam required per pattern position to obtain a desired pattern in a coating on a substrate. In addition, this electronic circuit means 5 is specifically discussed in claim 35 as an "electronic circuit means for implementing a neural network" for implementing the presently-invented method.

Accordingly, neither Fig. 1 nor Fig. 8 represent prior art electron scattering equipment and neural network interconnections. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these objections in view of these amendments.

Of pending claims 19-35, claim 35 stands rejected. In particular, claim 35 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner requires clarity regarding the smearing step (c), and also notes a lack of antecedent basis for the phrase "the smearing function." Through the foregoing amendment, the term "again" has been deleted, and the term "the" before smearing function has been replaced with the term "a". Accordingly, both of the Examiner's issues with this claim, as discussed in the rejection, have been addressed. Therefore, withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that claims 19-35, as amended, are patentable over the cited prior art and in condition for allowance. Claims 19-34 have already been allowed by the Examiner. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claim 35, and allowance of all pending claims 19-35 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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U.S. Serial No. 09/719,757
Dirk E.M. VAN DYCK et al.
Amendment Dated
November 30, 2004
Atty. Docket No. 702-002116

ANNOTATED SHEET

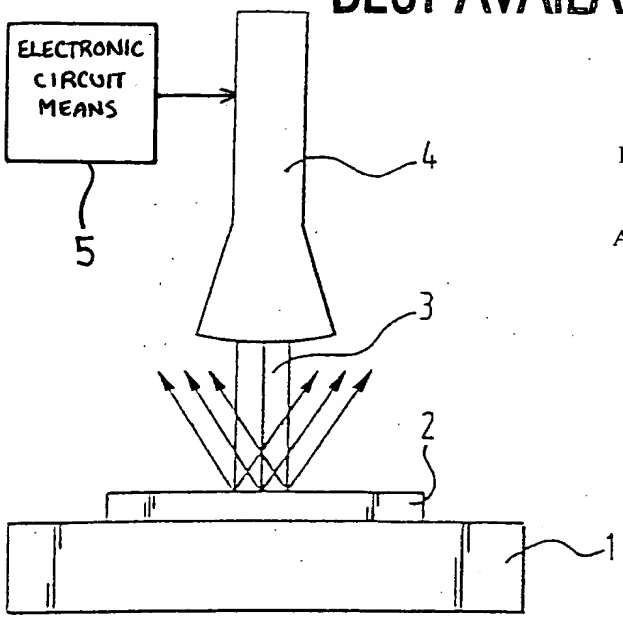

FIG. 1

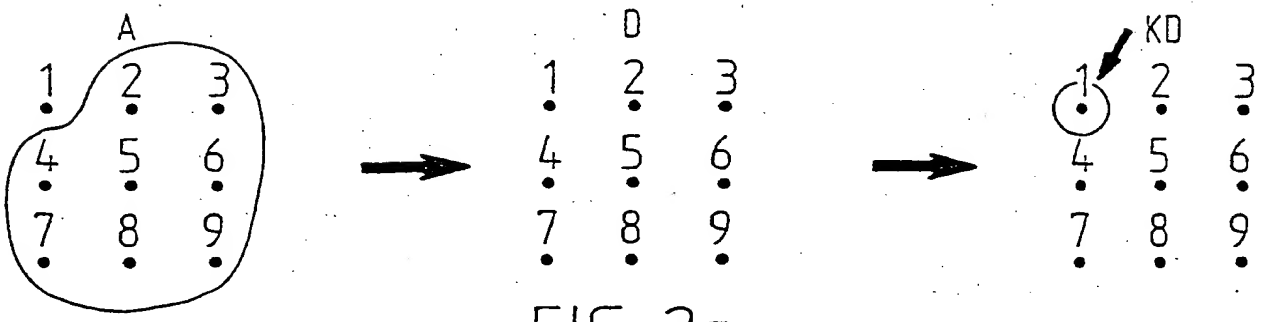

FIG. 2a

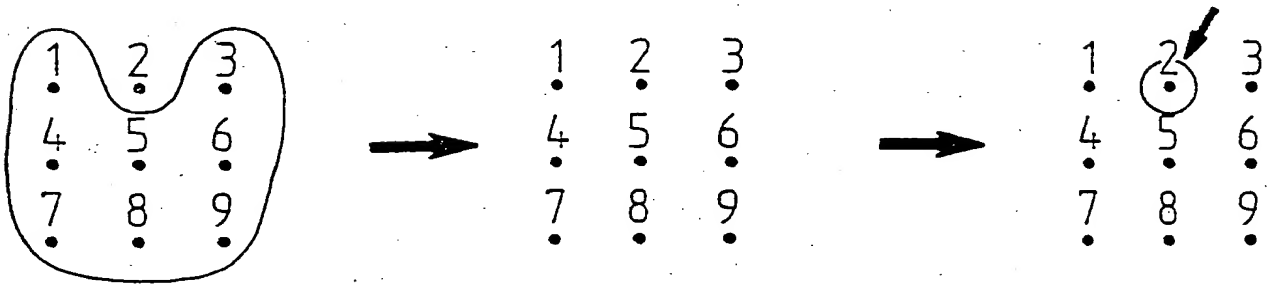

FIG. 2b

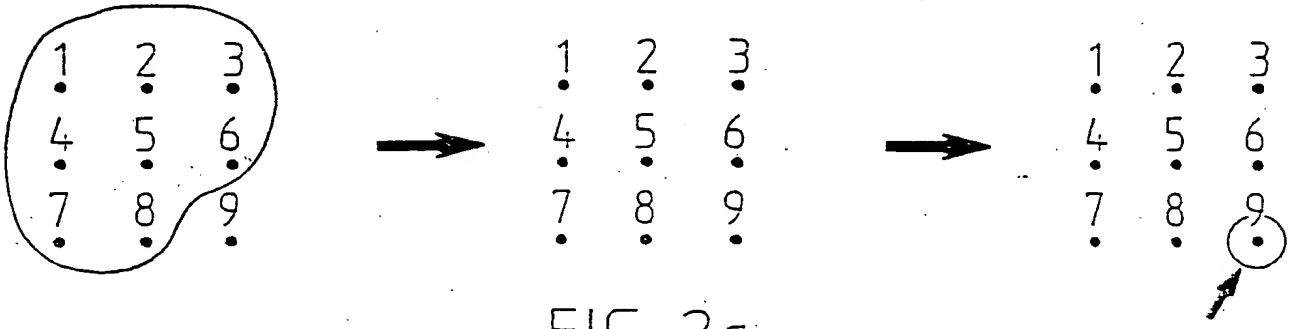

FIG. 2c

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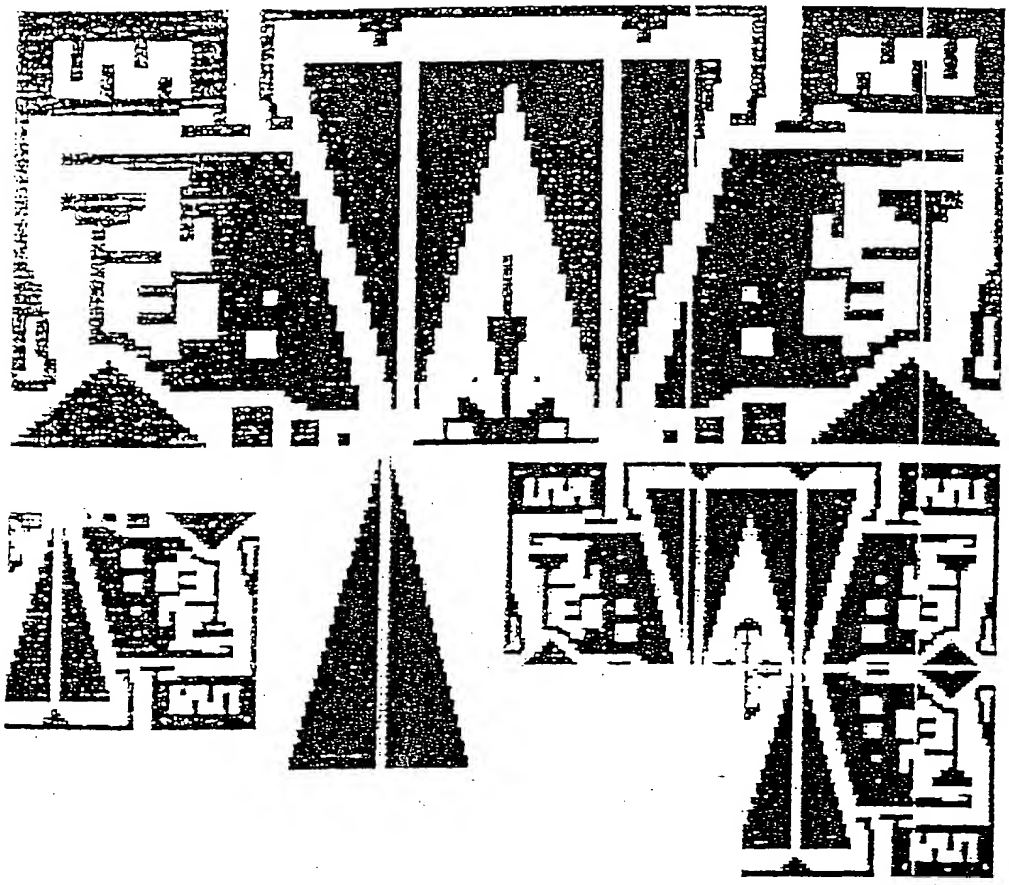

FIG. 7

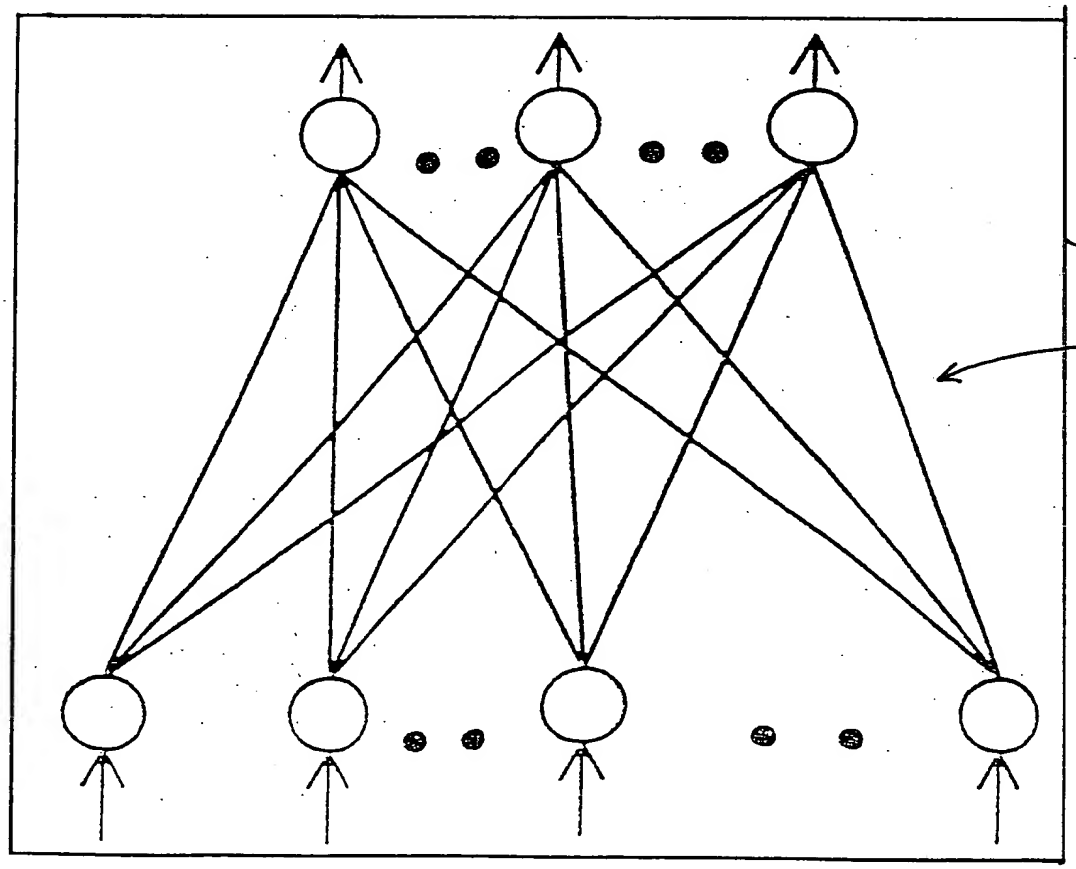

FIG. 8